

Our Mission

The Department of Public Utilities mission is to enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient, and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.



Call 311 or 645-3111
for all nonemergency
city services

City of Columbus
Department of Public Utilities
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
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Residential Streetlighting Assessment Program



Michael B. Coleman,
Mayor

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Columbus' Decorative Streetlighting Program

Decorative streetlights, like the one on the cover, are available through a property assessment procedure. If a resident gets enough petition signatures, representing 60% or more of the footage abutting the improvement, a neighborhood may select from options for decorative streetlighting.

Streetlight funding comes from three programs: 1) Developers pay for lighting in new developments; 2) Voters approve bond funding to support the city's cost for standard lighting; 3) Neighborhood residents petition for decorative lighting through the streetlighting assessment procedure (as outlined in this brochure).

If you have questions about the petition process, contact your neighborhood representative or call the Department of Public Utilities Residential Streetlighting Assessment Program at 645-2191.

Getting Started

✓ Neighborhood representatives can call 645-2191 to request an information packet describing the assessment process.

✓ Prior to a petition being prepared, the city requires the neighborhood contact to submit a Request for Streetlighting Assessment petition form, listing the streets to be included and the associated limits of the project.

✓ You will be given an estimate of the assessment with the petition; however, it should be noted that this figure is subject to change. A final assessment figure will be sent to you after project construction is completed.

✓ You are required to sign your name on the petition, give your property address and, if known, the parcel number in your subdivision.

✓ If one spouse's name is on the deed, only that individual may sign. If both names are on the deed, either may sign.

✓ You have 180 days from the time you receive the petition to obtain the required number of signatures. After you've obtained the required signatures, send the petition to the City Clerk's office.

Completing the Process

✓ After the city has verified and tabulated the signatures, the petition will be sent to City Council for action. Once the petition is filed with the City Clerk, signatures may not be removed from the petition.

✓ Each property owner will receive notice; objections must be filed within two weeks. If objections are filed over the assessment, City Council will appoint a Board of Revision to hear objections. The board's findings will go to City Council. City Council will pass an ordinance to proceed with the assessment, authorize issuance of notes and authorize the contract once the contractor is determined.

✓ Should City Council approve the assessment, each property owner will pay for new streetlights. Residents have the option of paying the actual assessment cost in full or having the assessment added to their property tax duplicate. If this payment option is chosen, the assessment is treated as a simple interest loan with interest added at the available city rate.

✓ After the project is complete, City Council will receive the assessment, passing an assessing ordinance. Within 30 days a method of payment will be determined.